

PERIPHERAL UNIT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, METHOD AND  
PROGRAM RECORDING MEDIUM THEREFOR

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

10 The peripheral unit management system, the  
peripheral unit management method and the program  
recording medium therefore for managing a plurality of  
peripheral units by a peripheral unit manager via a  
network wherein each of the plurality of peripheral units  
has a serial number and a unique ID number to distinguish  
15 it from other peripheral units and is connected to the  
network for communication between the manager and the  
peripheral units, the system can reuse data having been  
accumulated in one of the peripheral units in which a LAN  
card has been replaced, thereby management of articles of  
20 consumption and maintenance of the peripheral unit can be  
properly accomplished.

In a management system 1 that manages a plurality of  
peripheral units 2-1 to 2-N via a local area network LAN  
3, each peripheral unit having a serial number and a  
25 unique ID number, the system 1 communicates with each  
peripheral unit and reads the serial number and the ID  
number thereof, determines whether or not any one of the  
peripheral units has been replaced, when it is determined  
that a peripheral unit has been replaced the system  
30 obtains new data of the peripheral unit, when it is  
determined that a peripheral unit has not been replaced  
even though a LAN card of the peripheral unit has been  
replaced, the system reuses data having been accumulated  
in the peripheral unit.